

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, NU

SUBJECT: AMERICAN RED CROSS CONSTRUCTION

1. AMERICAN RED CROSS HAD MADE COMMITMENT TO BUILD NICARAGUAN RED CROSS NATIONAL BLOOD CENTER AND HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING AND TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND LABORATORY SUPPLIES FOR ONE YEAR. THIS INVOLVES AN EXPENDITURE OF OVER HALF MILLION DOLLARS CONTRIBUTED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND INDUSTRY FOLLOWING MANAGUA EARTH-QUAKE. THE AMERICAN RED CROSS STATES THAT THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE ON EXPLICIT WISHES OF GENERAL SOMOZA TO ESTABLISH A NATIONWIDE RED CROSS BLOOD PROGRAM BASED ON VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONOR PRINCIPLES. NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN RED CROSS BUDGET FUNDS ARE INVOLVED. THE FUNDS AVAILABLE ARE IN DONATIONS FROM AMERICAN PUBLIC HELD IN TRUST BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

2. MR. ROBERT MARTIN OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED A CABLE FROM JORGE CARDENAS, PRESIDENT, NICARAGUAN RED CROSS ADVISING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STOP CONSTRUCTION WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY PENDING RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL COMPUTATIONS FOR THEIR PRE-FAB BUILDING. THE

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AMERICAN RED CROSS IS NOW UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE THIS INFOR-

MATION . INTERRUPTION OF CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL, HOWEVER,
CONSIDERABLY INCREASE COST TO AMERICAN RED CROSS WHICH

ALREADY HAS CONTRACT WITH A NICARAGUAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HAS EXPRESSED ITS SERIOUS CONCERN
OVER THIS STOPPAGE AND BELIEVES CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE
PERMITTED TO CONTINUE PENDING RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL
PLANS AND CALCULATIONS ALREADY BEGUN.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT UNFAMILIAR WITH
REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH WORK HALTED. PLEASE INVESTIGATE
THIS MATTER TO DETERMINE IF UNDER NEW SEISMIC BUILDING
CODE WORK CAN CONTINUE ON PREPARATORY FOUNDATION CON-
STRUCTION. AMERICAN RED CROSS WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEND
A REPRESENTATIVE TO MANAGUA IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER
SHOULD EMBASSY BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE USEFUL.

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